



U.S. pledges to put Russia on defensive at UN Security Council

By Jim Heintz and
Ellen Knickmeyer
Associated Press

(AP) — The U.S. worked Sunday to ramp up diplomatic and financial pressure on Russia over Ukraine, promising to put Moscow on the defensive at the U.N. Security Council as lawmakers on Capitol Hill said they were nearing agreement on "the mother of all sanctions."

The American ambassador to the United Nations said the Security Council will press Russia hard in a Monday session to discuss its massing of troops near Ukraine and fears it is planning an invasion.

"Our voices are unified in calling for the Russians to explain themselves," Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said of the U.S.

and the other council members on ABC's "This Week." "We're going into the room prepared to listen to them, but we're not going to be distracted by their propaganda."

Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Oksana Markarova, warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin is bent on waging an "attack on democracy," not just on a single country. It's a case that some senior foreign policy figures have urged President Joe Biden to make, including at the Security Council.

"If Ukraine will be further attacked by Russia, of course they will not stop in Ukraine," Markarova said on CBS's "Face the Nation."



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield speaks to reporters during a news conference at United Nations headquarters on March 1, 2021.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File)

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U.S. pledges to put Russia on defensive at UN Security Council

Continued from Front

Any formal action by the Security Council is extremely unlikely, given Russia's veto power and its ties with others on the council, including China. But the U.S. referral of Russia's troop buildup to the United Nations' most powerful body gives both sides a stage in their fight for global opinion.

Russia's massing of an esti-

mated 100,000 troops near the border with Ukraine has brought increasingly strong warnings from the West that Moscow intends to invade. Russia is demanding that NATO promise never to allow Ukraine to join the alliance, and to stop the deployment of NATO weapons near Russian borders and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe. NATO and the U.S. call those demands impossible.

The head of Russia's Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev, on Sunday rejected Western warnings about an invasion.

"At this time, they're saying that Russia threatens Ukraine — that's completely ridiculous," he was quoted as saying by state news agency Tass. "We don't want war and we don't need it at all."

Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, countered

that on Twitter, saying: "If Russian officials are serious when they say they don't want a new war, Russia must continue diplomatic engagement and pull back military forces."

The United States and European countries say a Russian invasion would trigger heavy sanctions.

On Sunday, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Menendez, said that in the event of an attack, lawmakers want Russia to face "the mother of all sanctions." That includes actions against Russian banks that could severely undermine the Russian economy and increased lethal aid to Ukraine's military.

The sanctions under consideration would apparently be significantly stronger than those imposed after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Those penalties have been seen as ineffective.

Menendez also raised the prospect of imposing some punishments preemptively, before any invasion.

"There are some sanctions that really could take place up front, because of what Russia's already done — cyberattacks on Ukraine, false-flag operations, the efforts to undermine the Ukrainian government internally," the New Jersey Democrat said on CNN.

The desire to hit Russia harder financially over its moves on Ukraine has been a rare area of bipartisan agreement in Congress. But Republicans and Democrats have been divided over the timing of any new sanctions package.

Many GOP members are pushing for the U.S. to impose tough penalties immediately instead of waiting for Russia to send new

troops into Ukraine. The Biden administration and many Democratic lawmakers argue that imposing sanctions now against Putin would remove any deterrent to invasion.

Sen. James Risch of Idaho, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, told CNN he is "more than cautiously optimistic" that Republicans and Democrats will be able to resolve their differences over the timing of sanctions.

Russia has long resented NATO's granting of membership to countries that were once part of the Soviet Union or were in its sphere of influence as members of the Warsaw Pact.

NATO "has already come close to Ukraine. They also want to drag this country there," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Sunday, "although everyone understands that Ukraine is not ready and could make no contribution to strengthening NATO security."

Ukraine has sought NATO membership for years, but any prospects of joining appear far off as the country struggles to find political stability and attack corruption.

Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat and member of the Senate's Ukraine Caucus, suggested that Ukraine's backing off its NATO aspirations could expedite a diplomatic solution to the current crisis.

If Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "decides that the future membership, if there's to be one in NATO for Ukraine, and the question of the Russian occupation of Ukraine are two things to put on the table, I think we may move toward a solution to this," Durbin said on NBC. □



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Clyburn, architect of Biden's court pledge, pushes his pick

By Meg Kinnard
Associated Press

(AP) — At President Joe Biden's lowest moment in the 2020 campaign, South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn came to him with a suggestion: He should pledge to put the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

After some cajoling, Biden made the promise at a Democratic debate, a move Clyburn credits with turning out the Black support that helped Biden score a resounding victory in the South Carolina primary and ultimately win the White House.

Two years later, the hoped-for vacancy on the court has arrived with the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer. Biden is standing by his pledge. And Clyburn, the highest-ranking Black member of Congress, has another ask.

"Judge (Michelle) Childs has everything I think it takes to be great," Clyburn said.

As the lobbying begins over filling the open court seat, Clyburn is harnessing his history with Biden and his stature as the No. 3 House Democrat to make a forceful case for his preferred choice, U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs, a



From left, Rep. Joyce Beatty, D-Ohio, Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev. House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., alongside other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, speak in front of the Senate chamber about their support of voting rights legislation at the Capitol in Washington, Jan. 19, 2022. (AP Photo/Amanda Andrade-Rhoades, File)

jurist from his native South Carolina. It's a campaign he's making in public and in private, helping elevate Childs to an emerging short list of Black women who could soon make history. In addition to Childs, early discussions about a successor include California Supreme Court Justice Leondra Kruger, as well as Ketanji Brown Jackson, a former Breyer clerk who is now on the U.S. Court of

Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Biden is also looking at U.S. District Court Judge Wilhelmina Wright from Minnesota and Melissa Murray, a New York University law professor who is an expert in family law and reproductive rights justice.

For Biden, the court opening is a chance to show Black voters that he has not forgotten his promises to them, particularly after

his failure this month to deliver on voting rights legislation in the Senate. He said Thursday that having a Black woman on the court is "long overdue" and that he would announce his choice by the end of February.

Clyburn had a head start. He began making his case for Childs more than two years ago.

In December 2020, just weeks after Biden won the

White House, Clyburn said he wrote to the then-president elect advocating that Childs be promoted from South Carolina's federal trial bench to the D.C. appeals court. A seat on court is often seen as a springboard for Supreme Court nominees.

"Everybody says, 'Well, that's the way you need to go, to go to the Supreme Court,'" Clyburn said, of the appellate level. "I've never agreed to that, but you know, I don't have to agree with all the rules that I have to play by."

Last month, Biden officially submitted Childs' name for an open slot on the circuit court. Her Senate hearing had been expected this coming week, which would have given Childs a closely watched audition of sorts, but staffers said Friday that had been delayed.

In interviews over recent days, Clyburn has argued that, if Childs were nominated, she could win the backing of South Carolina's two Republican senators, Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott — an enticing prospect for Biden, offering the possibility of a pick that could satisfy the party and also win bipartisan support. □

2nd trial in Floyd killing centers on clash of duty, code

By Kathleen Foddy

(AP) — A federal trial against three former Minneapolis police officers seeks to hold them responsible for not stopping George Floyd's murder — and perhaps strike a blow against long-standing police culture that breeds reluctance to rein in fellow officers.

The circumstances of Floyd's death — pinned under Officer Derek Chauvin's knee for more than nine minutes, recorded from multiple camera angles — may help prosecutors clear the bar for conviction on a charge that's rarely brought, in part because it can be difficult to prove. Regardless, several former federal prosecutors and legal experts see a message in the Department of

Justice's pursuit of charges accusing J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao of violating Floyd's civil rights.

"This sends a real message to counterbalance that very strong cultural set of influences in policing that often prevent an officer from stepping forward and reporting or stopping misconduct," said Jonathan Smith, former chief of the department division that oversees police civil rights inquiries.

The federal charges require prosecutors to prove the ex-officers willfully deprived Floyd of his constitutional rights — meaning that they knew what they were doing was wrong and still went ahead.

Chauvin was convicted

of state murder and manslaughter charges last year and pleaded guilty to a federal civil rights charge. Kueng, Lane and Thao also face a separate state trial on charges they aided and abetted murder and manslaughter.

Police departments and local prosecutors have their own means to punish officers who don't intervene. But high-profile examples show how risky it is, both personally and professionally, for officers who do intervene or who cooperate with investigations of fellow officers.

In Chicago, a key police witness against three Chicago officers charged with trying to cover up the 2014 shooting of Laquan McDonald testified that she



Police line-up at the Oregon State Capitol building where demonstrators gathered during the day Saturday, Nov 7, 2020, in Salem, Ore. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File)

was taunted as a "rat" by fellow officers who said her calls for assistance while on duty should be ignored.

In Florida late last year, an officer with less than three years experience pulled a sergeant by his belt away

from a handcuffed suspect, apparently afraid he was about to pepper spray the man. The sergeant, a 21-year veteran, grabbed the officer — at one point placing his hand against her throat. □

Feds: Kansas woman led all-female Islamic State battalion

By Matthew Barakat
Associated Press

(AP) — A woman who once lived in Kansas has been arrested after federal prosecutors charged her with joining the Islamic State group and leading an all-female battalion of AK-47 wielding militants.

The U.S. Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia, announced Saturday that Allison Fluke-Ekren, 42, has been charged with providing material support to a terrorist organization.

The criminal complaint was filed under seal back in 2019 but made public Saturday after Fluke-Ekren was brought back to the U.S. Friday to face charges. Her alleged participation in the Islamic State had not been publicly known before Saturday's announcement.

Prosecutors say Fluke-Ekren wanted to recruit operatives to attack a college campus in the U.S. and discussed a terrorist attack on a shopping mall. She told one witness that "she considered any attack that did not kill a large number of individuals to be a waste of resources," according to an FBI affidavit.



The U.S. Courthouse is seen in Alexandria, Va., Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen, File)

That affidavit from FBI Special Agent David Robins also alleges that Fluke-Ekren became leader of an Islamic State unit called "Khatiba Nusaybah" in the Syrian city of Raqqa in late 2016. The all-female unit was trained in the use of AK-47 rifles, grenades and suicide belts.

In all, the affidavit cites observations from six different witnesses, including some

who have been charged with terrorism offenses and some who were held at prison camps for former Islamic state members.

A detention memo filed Friday by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh states that Fluke-Ekren even trained children how to use assault rifles, and that at least one witness saw one of Fluke-Ekren's children, approximately 5 or 6 years

old, holding a machine gun in the family's home in Syria.

"Fluke-Ekren has been a fervent believer in the radical terrorist ideology of ISIS for many years, having traveled to Syria to commit or support violent jihad. Fluke-Ekren translated her extremist beliefs into action by serving as the appointed leader and organizer of an ISIS military battalion, di-

rectly training women and children in the use of AK-47 assault rifles, grenades, and suicide belts to support the Islamic State's murderous aims," Parekh wrote.

According to court papers, Fluke-Ekren moved to Egypt in 2008 and traveled frequently between Egypt and the U.S. over the next three years. She has not been in the U.S. since 2011. Prosecutors believe she moved to Syria around 2012. In early 2016, her husband was killed in the Syrian city of Tell Abyad while trying to carry out a terrorist attack, prosecutors said. Later that year, prosecutors say she married a Bangladeshi ISIS member who specialized in drones, but he died in late 2016 or early 2017. Four months after that man's death, she again remarried a prominent Islamic state leader who was responsible for the Islamic State group's defense of Raqqa.

She told one witness in 2018 that she instructed a person in Syria to tell Fluke-Ekren's family she was dead so the U.S. government would not try to find her, according to Parekh's memo. □

Deadly Colorado blaze renews focus on underground coal fires



Rowdy Alexander watches from atop his horse as a hillside burns on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation on Aug 11, 2021, near Lame Deer, Mont. (AP Photo/Matthew Brown, File)

By Matthew Brown and Colleen Slevin
Associated Press

(AP) — A fire raging in an underground Colorado coal field in 1883 sent so much smoke pouring from cracks in the ground that the scene was likened to burning volcanoes and the

state's first mining inspector deemed the blaze "impossible to extinguish."

Nearly 140 years later two fires still smolder in the now-abandoned coal field near Boulder — the same area where a wildfire last month destroyed more than 1,000 homes and buildings and

killed at least one person. It's still unknown what caused the December blaze that became the most destructive in Colorado history, but Boulder County authorities have said they're investigating the area's abandoned coal mines as one of several possible causes, along with power lines, human activity and other possibilities.

Could smoldering coal have started such a fire? History shows the answer is yes, with at least two Colorado blazes in the past 20 years blamed on mine fires that spread to the surface. And in Montana this past summer slow-burning coal reserves fanned by winds sparked a pair of blazes that burned a combined 267 square miles (691 square kilometers) on and around the Northern Chey-

enne Indian Reservation. Across the U.S. at least 259 underground mine fires burned in more than a dozen states as of last September, according to federal Office of Surface Mining data. There are hundreds and possibly thousands more undocumented blazes burning in coal seams that have never been mined, researchers and government officials say. Globally, such fires are also a problem, including in India, Australia and South Africa. In China, the world's largest coal producer, an estimated 10 million to 200 million tons of the fuel annually burn or are left inaccessible by fires, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

As climate change leads to drought across large swaths of a U.S. West already seeing longer and

more destructive fire seasons, experts say smoldering coal fires will pose a continuing threat.

Such fires can be ignited by lightning, humans and even spontaneously at temperatures as low as 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius), said Jurgen Brune a Colorado School of Mines engineering professor. Many are impossible to put out, slowly burning underground as the combustion feeds off a small amount of oxygen present in the coal, he said.

"Covering it up and trying to take away the oxygen from the fire puts out most fires. Not for coal fires," Brune said.

Underground coal seams burn unpredictably and can break through to the surface without warning long after a fire starts, he said. □

Boris Johnson's mounting trouble is treasure for satirists

Associated Press

(AP) — A politician's troubles are a humorist's treasures.

The scandal-prone British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has given cartoonists and meme-makers unimaginable riches for years, and with his hold on power now in jeopardy, their fortunes are only growing.

Johnson and his staff are facing civil and criminal investigations into social gatherings they hosted last year while the rest of the U.K. was hunkering down under coronavirus restrictions. The episode raises serious questions about Johnson's leadership and political accountability.

But what gives it extra bite — and gives humorists much to chew on — are the often ludicrous details: political aides hauling suitcases of wine into the prime minister's residence, or drunkenly breaking a swing set belonging to Johnson's toddler son.

One recent newspaper cartoon captured the collision of tragedy and farce by depicting Johnson as the betrayed Roman ruler Julius Caesar, stabbed in the back with corkscrews. Martin Rowson, a political



Martin Rowson shows Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson cartoons as he poses for a photographer in his studio in London, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022. (AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

cartoonist for The Guardian newspaper, says mockery is one of the trade-offs in democratic societies between government and governed: "They have power and we have the right to laugh at them."

Britain has a long and proud tradition of political satire. In the 18th century, cartoonists such as James Gillray lampooned British politicians and royalty with an irreverence — even vi-

ciousness — that shocked many European visitors.

British TV shows like "Spitting Image," with its latex puppet politicians, carried on the tradition in the late 20th century. These days, internet videos and memes have joined the fun.

When Johnson became prime minister in 2019, some feared he would be hard to satirize because he was already a cartoonish figure, with his thatch of blonde

hair, rumpled clothes and blustering manner.

Steve Marchant, learning coordinator at the Cartoon Museum in London, says they needn't have worried: Johnson is a gift for humorists.

"All you need to draw is an egg with some straw on top and you've got Boris before you even attempt to draw the face," Marchant said. "And he is so — gaffe-prone is probably the po-

lite term I should use. Every week something happens with Boris. No cartoonist is going to die poor thanks to the antics of Boris Johnson." This, after all, is the erratic politician who once mused about being "reincarnated as an olive," who has offended everyone from the people of Papua New Guinea to the citizens of Liverpool and who once got stuck midair on a zipline while waving two Union Jacks.

Rowson says Johnson's cartoonish persona is deliberately crafted. He's the latest in a long line of politicians who have "played to being caricatures" to keep themselves in the public eye.

"Even though we ridicule them at the same time, it's a price worth paying for them," Rowson said.

Even so, not all publicity is good news for politicians. Much of the humor around "partygate" has an undercurrent of anger. One of Rowson's recent cartoons depicted Queen Elizabeth II wearing a gas mask to protect herself from the rotten smell of Johnson and his Conservative government floundering in a swamp behind her. □

French left is divided, weakened in presidential race

By Sylvie Corbet

Associated Press

(AP) — The French left is running divided and weakened in this year's presidential race as at least five mainstream presidential candidates have rejected any alliances with each other — and an online vote meant to pick a leader Sunday appears doomed to fail.

The so-called Popular Primary has been organized by left-wing supporters to unite their ranks before France's presidential election is held in two rounds on April 10 and 24.

More than 460,000 people registered for the primary. Results of the four-day online vote are expected Sunday evening. But the move already appears bound to fail: key contenders say

they wouldn't respect the outcome because they don't respect the process. At least five main candidates ranging from left-wing to the far-left are running for president, in addition to lesser-known contenders. At the moment, none of them appears in a position to reach the two-person runoff in April's election.

Centrist President Emmanuel Macron, who doesn't hide his intention to run for reelection, is considered the front-runner. Conservative candidate Valérie Pécresse and two far-right figures, Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour, are the main challengers according to polls, placing far-left candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon in fifth position.

Mélenchon — a political

firebrand with a notorious temper — refuses to form a united front with other left-wing candidates. The 70-year-old politician, who heads the "Rebel France" party, has promised to guarantee jobs for everyone, raise the minimum wage, lower the retirement age to 60 and hike taxes on multinationals and rich households.

The Greens' contender, Yannick Jadot, 54, and the Socialist candidate, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, 62, have also rejected the idea of running together despite a traditional alliance between their parties. Another candidate, Fabien Roussel, 52, is running for the Communist Party.

Hidalgo's campaign has so far failed to prompt enthusiasm from leftist voters. Her



French Green Party presidential candidate for the 2022 election Yannick Jadot gestures as he speaks during a media conference in Paris, Friday, Dec. 17, 2021. The first round of the 2022 French presidential election will be held on April 10, 2022 and the second round on April 24, 2022. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

once-powerful party remains weakened after Macron's win in 2017 — when Socialist President Francois Hollande decided not to run for reelection amid unprecedented low popular-

ity ratings.

Jadot unveiled his electoral platform Saturday during a rally in Lyon, saying that climate change is the "biggest challenge" that voters and politicians face. □

Italy's president, 80, is recruited to stay on for 2nd term

By Frances D'emilio
Associated Press

(AP) — Italian President Sergio Mattarella was pulled away from his impending retirement and reelected Saturday to a second seven-year term as the country's head of state, ending days of political impasse by party leaders that risked eroding the nation's credibility.

Earlier on Saturday, lawmakers entreated Mattarella, 80, who had said repeatedly he didn't want a second mandate, to change his mind after lawmakers in Parliament and regional delegates voted fruitlessly for days, trying to reach a consensus on other possible candidates.

Mattarella won in the eighth round of voting when he clinched the minimum of 505 votes needed from the eligible 1,009 Grand Electors. Applause broke out in Parliament, prompting the Chamber of Deputies president to interrupt his reading of the ballots. The count then resumed, with Mattarella going on to win 759 votes.

In a brief, televised statement from the Quirinal presidential palace, Mattarella told the nation he couldn't let his personal de-



Italian President Sergio Mattarella speaks during a meeting with Secretary of State Antony Blinken at Quirinale Palace in Rome, Monday, June 28, 2021. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, Pool, File)

sires prevail over a "sense of responsibility" during the "grave health, economic and social emergency" Italy was enduring in the COVID-19 pandemic. He added his commitment "to interpret the expectations and hopes of our fellow citizens."

Mattarella's first term ends on Thursday. Ahead of the presidential election this week, Mattarella had even rented an apartment in Rome to prepare for his

move from the presidential palace.

But after a seventh round of balloting in six days in Parliament failed to yield any consensus on a presidential candidate, party whips and regional governors visited Mattarella at the presidential palace Saturday to reenlist him.

Rai state TV said Premier Mario Draghi, the former European Central Bank chief who is leading a pandemic unity govern-

ment, telephoned party leaders to encourage the lobbying. Draghi had previously indicated he would be willing to move into the president's role, but some party leaders feared that would prompt an early election and more political instability for Italy.

Draghi hailed Mattarella's re-election as "splendid news for Italians."

"I am grateful to the president for his choice in accommodating the very

strong will of Parliament to re-elect him to a second mandate," the premier said.

"You don't change a winning team," former Premier Matteo Renzi told reporters ahead of the final vote.

Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who heads the center-right Forza Italia party he founded and who a week earlier dropped his own bid to be president, said that unity "today can only be found around" the figure of Mattarella.

The head of the populist 5-Star Movement, Parliament's largest force, former Premier Giuseppe Conte, also praised Mattarella as "the guarantor of everybody, impartial, authoritative." Conte's praise for Mattarella was all the more remarkable considering how, when Conte was trying to form Italy's first populist-led government in 2018, Mattarella vetoed his pick of a euro-skeptic economist for the post of finance minister, an appointment likely to have shaken financial markets' faith in Italy.

Also lobbying for Mattarella was right-wing League party leader Matteo Salvini, whose candidates failed to take off in the early rounds. □

Northern Ireland marks 50 years since Bloody Sunday



People take part in a march to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 'Bloody Sunday' shootings with the photographs of some of the victims in Londonderry, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

Associated Press

(AP) — Hundreds of people gathered Sunday in Northern Ireland to mark 50 years since "Bloody Sunday," one of the deadliest days in the conflict known as The Troubles.

Thirteen people were killed and 15 others wounded when British soldiers fired

on civil rights protesters on Jan. 30, 1972, in the city of Derry, also known as Londonderry.

Relatives of those killed and injured half a century ago took part in a remembrance walk Sunday, retracing the steps of the original march. Crowds gathered at the Bloody

Sunday Monument, where political leaders including Irish Premier Micheal Martin laid wreaths in a ceremony. The names of those who were killed and wounded were read out during the 45-minute memorial service.

Britain's government apologized in 2010 after an official inquiry found that the soldiers fired without justification on unarmed, fleeing civilians and then lied about it for decades. The report refuted an initial investigation that took place soon after the slayings that said the soldiers had been defending themselves against Irish Republican Army bombers and gunmen.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson told Parliament on

Wednesday that Bloody Sunday was "one of the darkest days in our history" and that the country "must learn from the past."

One former British soldier was charged in 2019 in the killing of two of the protesters and the injury of four others. But prosecutors decided last year not to proceed with the case because there was no longer a prospect of conviction. Families of one of the victims have brought a legal challenge against that decision.

Martin, the Irish leader, said Sunday that there should be full accountability in all legacy issues.

"I don't believe this will be any amnesty for anybody," he said after meeting with the families of victims. "It is

important because time is moving on too for many, many families and families need closure."

Michael McKinney, whose brother William was among the victims, criticized the British government's plans to make it harder to prosecute military veterans for alleged offenses committed years earlier.

"They are trying to deny us justice because they are scared to face justice. But we want to send a very clear warning to the British government. If they pursue their proposals, the Bloody Sunday families will be ready to meet them head on," McKinney said. Irish President Michael D. Higgins is expected to deliver a message to the affected families later Sunday. □





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Sudanese take to the streets in latest anti-coup protests

By Samy Magdy
Associated Press

(AP) — Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Sudan's capital and other cities across the country Sunday for the latest in a months-long string of demonstrations denouncing an October military coup that plunged the country into turmoil. At least one person was killed when security forces violently dispersed protesters, a medical group said.

Protesters, mostly young men and women, marched in the streets of Khartoum and other cities, demanding an end to the military's takeover. They called for a fully civilian government to lead the country's now-stalled transition to democracy.

The coup has upended Sudan's transition to democratic rule after three decades of repression and international isolation under autocratic President Omar al-Bashir. The African nation has been on a fragile path to democracy since a popular uprising forced the military to remove al-Bashir and his Islamist government in April 2019.

The protests are called by the Sudanese Professionals Association and the Resistance Committees, which were the backbone of the uprising against al-Bashir and relentless anti-coup protests in the past three months.

Footage circulated online



People chant slogans during a anti-coup protests that have rocked the country since a military coup three months ago in Khartoum, Sudan, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Marwan Ali)

showed people beating drums and chanting anti-coup slogans in the streets of Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman. Protesters were also seen carrying Sudanese flags and other flags with photos of protesters reportedly slain by security forces printed on them. They marched towards the presidential palace, an area in the capital that has seen deadly clashes between protesters and security forces in previous rounds of demonstrations. Security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters in at least one location in the capital. At least three people suffered injuries from rubber bullets, said activist

Nazim Sirag.

The Sudan Doctors Committee, a medical group tracking casualties among protesters, said a 27-year-old protester died in a Khartoum hospital after he sustained unspecified injuries to his chest during the protests. It did not elaborate. There were protests elsewhere in the country including the eastern city of Port Sudan, western Darfur region and Madani, the capital city of Jazira province, about 135 kilometers (85 miles) southeast of Khartoum. Madani saw a massive anti-coup protest last week.

Ahead of the protests, authorities stepped up security in Khartoum and Om-

durman. They deployed thousands of troops and police and sealed off central Khartoum, urging protesters to assemble only in public squares in the capital's neighborhoods.

The United Nations mission in Sudan on Saturday warned that such restrictions could increase tensions, urging authorities to let the protests "pass without violence."

Since the coup, at least 79 people have been killed and hundreds of others wounded in a widely condemned crackdown on protests, the doctors group said.

There were also mass arrests of activists leading the anti-coup protests and alle-

gations of sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, in a Dec. 19 protest in Khartoum, according to the U.N.

The upheaval in Sudan worsened earlier this month following the resignation of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was the civilian face of the transitional government over the past two years.

The prime minister, who was ousted in the October coup only to be reinstated a month later under heavy international pressure, stepped down on Jan. 2 after his efforts to reach a compromise failed.

Sunday's protests came as the U.N. mission continued its consultations to find a way out of the ongoing crisis. On Saturday, powerful Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, deputy head of the ruling Sovereign Council, and commander of the feared Rapid Support Forces, said they have accepted the U.N. efforts to resolve the crisis, but that U.N. envoy Volker Perthes "should be a facilitator not a mediator."

Dagalo did not elaborate but his comments showed the challenges the U.N. mission faces to find a common ground between rival factions in Sudan. The pro-democracy movement has insisted on the removal of the generals from power and the establishment a fully civilian government to lead the transition. □

LOCAL



Test today, fly tomorrow during the holidays

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

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- Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort
- The Ritz-Carlton Resort.

Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

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Covid Status in Aruba as of Jan 31, 2022

ORANJESTAD – Here is the latest update on the ongoing COVID situation in Aruba.

As of January 30 2022, Aruba registered 386 active cases, of which 64 were non-residents. Whereas the average daily cases over the past seven days total 89. The positivity rate stands at 49%.

Hospitalizations:

There are currently 37 hospitalized of which 4 are in the ICU. In Colombia there are 6 persons in ICU. Due to lack of staff at the hospital they have to send patients over to Colombia for treatment.

The measures are as follows since of December 30, 2021

- Curfew: NO Curfew
- Closing Time: 12:00 am for all business for the exception of Casino's which can stay open till 1:00 am
- Restaurants: Max. 6 people per table.
- Social Activities and Sports: Max. people: 60 indoors, 75 outdoors.
- Funerals: Max. people: 75 (if the space is adequately large enough)
- Area Ban 7:00 pm – 5:00 am
- Nightlife: Dancing is not permitted
- Entertainment: Max 5 musicians on stage.
- Gathering Ban: Max. 6 people.
- Shopping: 1 person per family
- The following measures remain applicable:
- Masks: Use of masks is mandatory inside at all establishments.
- Alcohol: Ban of alcohol on public roads: 24 hours.
- Social Distancing: Continue maintaining social distance.

Exceptions as of Jan 8, 2022

Persons that have received the booster shot (so all 3 vaccine shots) and persons that were infected with Covid within past 4 weeks no longer need to quarantine when a housemate tested positive.

Adaptation of testing requirements to enter Aruba

As of February 3, 2022, non-resident travelers visiting Aruba have two testing options before boarding.

1. A PCR test is taken per the country of origin's risk level;
2. An Antigen lab-test within 24 hours of travel

You must upload the test results online on the ED card system. The introduction of the Antigen option facilitates the entire testing process travelers have to go through and makes it possible for more visitors to get their test results in time for their Aruba vacation. This option contributes to the growth of our tourism without increasing the risks of more covid infections. Travelers from high-risk countries still cannot test upon arrival but must show a negative PCR result before boarding.

Residents returning from the USA can get a (PCR) test at the airport upon arrival but can now also get an Antigen test within 24 hours of travel from the U

Those who wish to do a Molecular (e.g. PCR) test will have 3 days to take the Molecular test



Aruba will be opening up to all countries

Aruba will launch the option to travel with a digitally verifiable QR-Code proof of Covid-19 booster vaccination. Any combination of the following vaccines and booster shot administered at least 7 days before travel will be accepted:

- Comirnaty (Pfizer BioNTech),
- Spikevax (Moderna),
- Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca),
- Janssen (Johnson&Johnson),
- Nuvaxovid (Novavax).

This needs to be uploaded as part of the ED Card process no earlier than 3 days before arrival.

For the U.S.: Please take note that neither the physical nor a picture of the CDC card will be accepted, it needs to be in the form of a SMART Health Card.

For more details go to www.aruba.com traveler requirement.


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cious gelato, available in 5 flavors: amaretto, hazelnut crunch, mandarin, coconut, and coffee.

The newest addition to the gelatissimo chocolate delight is its creatively shaped chocolate bars. The chocolate bars are made with the finest cocoa beans, this chocolatey goodness offers the perfect texture and taste to satisfy every palette, available in milk or dark chocolate, with or without hazelnut.

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New federal law targets medical bill surprises

By Tom Murphy
Associated Press

(AP) - Patients worried about getting hit with an unexpected bill after emergency care gained a layer of protection this month from a new federal law.

The No Surprises Act prevents doctors or hospitals in many situations from billing insured patients higher rates because the care providers are not in their insurer's coverage network. The law won't eliminate billing surprises. But it is expected to ease concerns, especially in emergencies where patients may not have time to choose an in-network doctor. A closer look at the law:

How are patients protected?

Insurers form networks of doctors and hospitals that agree to provide care for a discounted rate negotiated with the insurer. Providers outside those networks often bill patients for the difference between what they charged and what the insurer covered.

Insurers also may cover less of the remaining bill after the patient pays a deductible, which is the amount paid for care before most coverage starts. In some cases, patients



A chief nursing officer walks down a hallway in the recently reopened emergency room at a hospital in Houma, La., on Friday, Sept. 3, 2021. Patients worried about getting smacked with an unexpected bill after emergency care gained a layer of protection in January 2022 from a new federal law. (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

could receive the entire bill if the insurer doesn't cover anything outside its network. The new law ends these billing surprises for most emergency care by essentially requiring that patients receive in-network coverage with no additional billing from the provider.

It also offers protection in care that isn't an emergency when people are treated at in-network hospitals

by a provider outside their network. That can include radiology, lab work or care from an anesthesiologist. The law also protects against out-of-network bills for air ambulances, but not ground ambulances.

Many states already regulate surprise medical bills. The federal law supplements those measures. What other protections are provided?

The No Surprises Act beefs

up protection against insurer claim rejections for emergency visits. Emergency departments are expensive places to seek care, and insurers have been trying to limit their use to only life-threatening emergencies.

They have denied coverage if they deem patient visits to be not emergencies. Doctors worry this practice will deter patients from seeking life-saving

care when they need it. Regulations behind the new law note that insurers cannot deny a claim solely based on a doctor's diagnosis. They also must consider the symptoms patients had when they arrived. That means insurers should not deny a claim to a patient who rushed to the ER thinking she was having a heart attack but ultimately was diagnosed with heart burn.

Can this protection be waived? In some cases that aren't emergencies, a doctor outside the network may ask a patient to waive their protections from the law. In exchange, they will provide an estimate of what the care will cost.

Those estimates also are available to uninsured patients. Patients have to sign this waiver before the care. If the final bill comes in at least \$400 higher than the estimate, patients have a roughly four-month window in which they can dispute the amount.

If someone declines the waiver, the doctor may decline to treat them. That could force people to choose between the doctor or hospital when only one is in the network. □

Spending, crime top lawmakers' agendas for 2022 session

By Mohamed Ibrahim
Associated Press

(AP) — In a year where every state legislative seat and the governor's office is up for grabs in November's election, the state's enormous \$7.7 billion surplus and how to spend it looms over Minnesota legislative leaders and Democratic Gov. Tim Walz ahead of the start of the legislative session on Monday.

House Speaker Melissa Hortman and Majority Leader Ryan Winkler return to lead the Democratic House while the GOP-controlled Senate sees a change in leadership in Republican Sen. Jeremy Miller, of Winona, who took over as majority leader after Sen. Paul Gazelka, of East Gull Lake,

announced his bid for governor. Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers have pointed to issues like crime as a major issue this session, and it will likely carry over as a campaign issue during midterm elections this fall.

Here's what to expect as lawmakers convene on Monday for the 2022 session:

Walz's proposed supplemental budget includes a spending plan focused on children and families that makes up more than \$5 billion over three years and another proposal as part of an economic opportunity plan that would send checks of \$175 or \$350 to more than 2.7 million Minnesota households.

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans want to give that money back to Minnesotans in the form of permanent tax cuts. Miller on Wednesday highlighted their effort to eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits and signaled a potential push for other ongoing tax relief.

The governor also proposed a record \$2.7 billion "local jobs and projects" bonding package — much larger than the \$1.9 billion package passed in 2020 that is the current largest in the state's history. Bonding bills require a three-fifths majority to pass, making the minority party in each chamber essential to any package's chances of making it to the governor's



Gov. Tim Walz, right, and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan tour a construction project at the University of Minnesota where they announced their \$2.7 billion plan to bolster infrastructure across Minnesota, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, in Minneapolis. (Glen Stubbe/Star Tribune via AP)

desk to be signed. There seems to be common ground, however, in repaying the state's debt to the federal government for jobless aid to prevent an

unemployment insurance tax increase — an issue Republicans have called a top priority and that Walz included in his budget plan. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 35 Business

1 Football gain
play start 37 Feedbag

5 Said fill
further 38 Peaceful

10 Zilch 39 Get —

11 Chauffeur the crack

13 Lab of dawn

assistant 40 Stitched
of film 41 Workout

14 Italian count
cheese

15 Umbrella look-alike

17 Jack of "Barney Miller"

18 Lettering aid

19 "— your loss!"

20 Ump's call

21 Verse writer

22 Translucent theater drop

25 Ranch workers

26 — the line (obeyed)

27 Combat

28 Sounds of contentment

29 Model of perfection

33 Got together

34 Showy flower

GRAMMY	HUTS
RESCUE	UNIT
ATTEST	MICA
PIONS	COCKY
HERR	CAROLE
OARS	RED
THEWEEKND	
COO	FERN
HEMSUP	EGOS
ONEAL	PERIL
PAIL	LOCALE
RICE	ELATED
ALES	MOPEDS

Saturday's answer

8 Vague 25 Tortoise's
answer rival

9 Signified 27 Desired

12 Perches 29 "Common
Sense"

16 Soap residue writer

21 Lover 30 Get
excited

22 Post office buy 31 Like bar
beer

23 Sticks together 32 Bird
abodes

24 Make good as 36 Three or
new four

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	40					41			

1-31

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

G M T P G W V J Z J O G E V I A Q X X

D V G M T V G R I R T G M V Z G

G E V W N M V Z G X I Z J O G E V I

A Q X X P E R A G E V W P V X F V P N M V Z G

— M Z X Y E A Z X O R V W V M P R J

Saturday's Cryptoquote: MIDDLE AGE IS WHEN YOU'VE MET SO MANY PEOPLE THAT EVERY NEW PERSON YOU MEET REMINDS YOU OF SOMEONE ELSE. — OGDEN NASH

First Arabic Netflix film tackles taboos, sparks controversy



This photo released by Netflix shows characters from the Arabic-language version of the Italian film "Perfect Strangers," about friends who agree to share their incoming calls, voice and text messages with each other over a dinner party, leading to a series of revelations that test their marriages and friendships. (Rudy Bou Chebel/Netflix via AP)

By Miriam Fam
Associated Press

(AP) — A Lebanese father tells his teenage daughter she is free to choose whether to have sex with her boyfriend despite his reservations.

An Egyptian wife discreetly slips off her black, lacy underwear from under her clothes before heading out for dinner, and it's not her husband she's trying to tantalize.

And in a dramatic moment, a man reveals that he is gay, a secret he has kept from his longtime friends who are shocked — but seem mostly accepting.

The scenes in the first Arabic Netflix movie have sparked a public drama as intense as the one that plays out onscreen. On social media and TV talk shows and among friends in Egypt and other Middle East countries, a torrent of critics have denounced the film as a threat to family and religious values, encouraging homosexuality and unfit for Arab societies. Others have rallied to the film's defense, saying detractors are in denial about what happens behind closed doors in real life. Those who don't like the movie, they argue, are free to not subscribe to Netflix or simply skip the film.

Titled "Ashab Wala A'azz," which means "No Dearest Friends," the movie is an Arabic version of the Italian hit "Perfect Strangers,"

which has inspired many other international remakes. It tells the story of seven friends at a dinner party gone wrong after the hostess suggests that, as a game, they agree to share any calls, text and voice messages. As smart phones buzz, secrets are revealed, infidelities are exposed and relationships are tested.

The controversy has reignited debates in the region over artistic freedom versus social and religious sensitivities; censorship; what constitutes a taboo in different societies and portrayal of gay characters.

One irony is that Netflix in the Middle East shows many non-Arabic movies and series that feature gay characters in a positive light, premarital and extramarital sex and even nudity — which is typically banned in cinemas in the region — with little outcry. But to see those themes broached in an Arabic-language movie with Arab actors went too far for some. (The movie has no nudity; it's largely an hour and half of people talking around a dinner table.)

"I think if it's a normal foreign movie, I will be ok. But because it's an Arabic movie, I didn't accept it," said 37-year-old Elham, an Egyptian who asked for her last name to be withheld due to the sensitivity of the topic. "We don't accept the idea of homosexuality or intimate relations before

marriage in our society, so what happened was a cultural shock."

Homosexuality is a particularly strong taboo in Egypt: A 2013 survey by the Pew Research Center found that 95% in the country say it should be rejected by society; in Lebanon, that number stood at 80% at the time.

The movie's cast are mostly prominent Lebanese stars and its events are set in Lebanon. There, it has garnered many positive reviews. Fans said it discussed relatable topics away from stereotypes that are usually attached to gay characters or cheating spouses on screen.

"There's nothing like the Arab world's hatred of the truth," Rabih Farran, a Lebanese journalist, said in a tweet, referring to the backlash.

It's not the first time that an Arabic-language movie has featured gay characters.

Most famously, the 2006 movie "The Yacoubian Building" with a cast of A-list Egyptian actors caused a stir for, among other things, including a gay main character. But the character was ultimately killed by his lover in what many saw as punishment.

In contrast, the gay character in "Ashab Wala A'azz" is not depicted negatively. Another character encourages him to expose his former employers who let him go for his sexual identity.

Talking on a popular TV show, Egyptian lawmaker Mostafa Bakry contended Egyptian and Arab family values are being targeted. "This is neither art nor creativity," he said. "We must ban Netflix from being in Egypt" even if temporarily. Magda Maurice, an art critic debating Bakry on the show, disagreed. "This movie exposes what mobile phones do to people and to their normal lives," she said.

"You cannot ban anything now but you can confront it with good art," she added. □

Portugal picks new government with \$50B of EU funds on table



A voter casts his ballot at a polling station in Lisbon, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022. Portuguese voters are going to the polls Sunday, two years earlier than scheduled after a political crisis over a blocked spending bill brought down the country's minority Socialist government and triggered a snap election. (AP Photo/Armando Franca)

By Barry Hatton
Associated Press

(AP) — Portuguese voters went to the polls Sunday in an early election that looked to produce another vulnerable minority government, just as the country is poised to start spending a huge windfall of European Union pandemic funds. That outcome would leave Portugal back where it started two months ago, when lawmakers rejected the minority Socialist government's spending bill and the country's president dissolved parliament. The center-left Socialists and their main rivals, the center-right Social Democratic Party, were in a tight race, opinion polls suggested. Those two parties traditionally collect around

70% of the vote and have for decades alternated in power in Western Europe's poorest country. The landslide victory needed to form a majority government, which can pass most legislation despite opposition in parliament, is rare. Portugal has had just three majority governments in the past half-century. That means one of the two main parties likely will have to form parliamentary alliances by cutting deals with smaller parties. Two-thirds of that sum is intended for public projects, such as major infrastructure, giving the next government a financial bonanza. The other third is to be awarded to private companies. The ballot took place Sun-

day amid a surge in COVID-19 cases blamed on the omicron variant, with about 1.2 million people confined at home but allowed to go to polling stations to vote. President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, in an election-eve address to the nation, urged people to vote, declaring it's "a way of saying that ... nothing, and nobody, can silence our voice." □



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Nadal wins Australian Open for record 21st major title

By JOHN PYE

Associated Press

(AP) — Searching for inspiration when he was down two sets and facing triple break point, with his prospects of winning a record 21st Grand Slam title almost shot, Rafael Nadal thought back to some of his most difficult defeats.

A renowned right-to-the-end competitor, Nadal dug deep in that critical moment and won the next four points to survive the immediate threat from Daniil Medvedev. Minutes later he held for 3-3 in the third set and swung the momentum of the Australian Open final around.

Nadal eventually did get to 21 first, setting the men's record for most Grand Slam singles titles after a dramatic 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 comeback win that lasted 5 hours and 24 minutes and finished early Monday morning.

The 35-year-old Spaniard now has one more major title than Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, his long-time rivals in the so-called Big Three.

He was the only one of three who had a chance to claim the record solo in Australia.

Federer is still recovering from knee surgery and Djokovic was sensationally deported from Australia on the eve of the tournament because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID-19.

It's all history now that Nadal has become just the fourth man to win all four of the sport's major titles at least twice.

"I was repeating to myself during the whole match, 'I lost a lot of times here having chances, sometimes I was a little bit unlucky,'" Nadal said. "I just wanted to keep believing until the end."

"Tonight has been unforgettable. I feel very lucky." Nadal was broken when serving to serve it out for the first time at 5-4 in the fifth set, but he made no mistake two games later, converting the first of his championship points.

Taking everything into account, "the scenario, the



Rafael Nadal of Spain holds the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, early Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. (AP Photo/Hamish Blair)

momentum," he said, "without a doubt probably the biggest comeback of my tennis career."

Certainly, he added, "The most unexpected. And most surprising, I think, for everyone."

Federer and Djokovic were watching, from a distance, and both used social media messages to offer congratulations to Nadal for breaking their three-way tie atop the men's Grand Slam standings.

Nadal and Medvedev packed a lot of drama into the final that started Sunday night, was delayed in the 84-minute second set when a human rights activist jumped onto the court, and finished close to 1:15 a.m.

Nadal was serving for the second set but was broken in that game. Then Medvedev had his moments to break again in the third set but admitted he got tight.

"Should have done better. Should have hit a winner," Medvedev said. "May-

be would have won the match."

"Tactically nothing changed," he added, "but Rafa stepped up."

Indeed, he did. And at 1:30 a.m. he stepped up onto the podium to give his victory speech.

"Good evening. No, good morning!" Nadal joked, looking at his watch.

In the background, Rod Laver, the ageing Australian tennis great for whom Melbourne Park's main stadium is named, was holding up his smartphone to capture the scenes. A woman nearby held up a sign that stated: "Rafa is the GOAT." For now, in terms of men's major titles at least, Nadal is the Greatest Of All Time. Nadal praised Medvedev for the part he played in what eventually became the second longest Australian Open final ever. Nadal's loss to Djokovic a decade ago lasted 5:53.

Nadal's 21st major title was even more remarkable considering he had two matches under his belt

in the second half of 2021 because he was sidelined with a chronic foot injury. He also overcame a bout of COVID-19.

"For me, it's just amazing," he said, adding that it was only six weeks ago "I didn't know if I'd be able to play on the tour again."

Nadal won his first Australian Open title in 2009 and then lost four other finals here. His conversion rate in major finals is now 21 out of 29.

Medvedev, who was aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the very next major, was ever-so-close to spoiling another 21st celebration.

Djokovic was chasing the same record at the U.S. Open last year, and a calendar-year Grand Slam, when Medvedev beat him in straight sets in the final.

Federer also had his chance at 21, but Djokovic stopped that after saving match points en route to winning the 2019 Wimbledon final.

For Nadal, this was just the fourth time — and first since 2007 — he's rallied from two sets down to win a best-of-five-set match. It's the first time it has happened at the Australian Open final since 1965.

Medvedev, who lost the 2021 final in Melbourne to Djokovic, began his post-match news conference by talking about having been "a young kid who dreamed about big things in tennis" who now has become a bit disillusioned. He spoke a little later about being disappointed in the way spectators treated him in the final and earlier in the tournament.

"From now on, I'm playing for myself," Medvedev said. "For my family. To provide (for) my family, for people that trust in me. Of course for all the Russians, because I feel a lot of support there."

Medvedev continued his love-hate relationship with Australian crowds. He stayed calm for the first two sets before complaining about the yelling and noise between first and second serves.

After Nadal broke him in the third game of the fourth set, on a double-fault, Medvedev walked to the changeover giving an ironic thumbs-up to the crowd. There was an exchange of breaks but Nadal got the upper hand after a long game when he converted his seventh breakpoint.

Medvedev urged chair umpire John Blom to shut the crowd up.

"Step up, man. It's the final of a Grand Slam. 'Please' is not enough," he said. "They're idiots. With idiots, 'please' doesn't work."

After Medvedev served a double-fault to open the fifth set, Blom warned the crowd that anyone yelling between first and second serves could get kicked out by security. Medvedev did manage to hold that game but in the end he didn't quite have the endurance. "I want to congratulate Rafa," he said. "What he did today was amazing. You're an amazing champion." □

Brignone, Huetter share victory at World Cup super-G

Associated Press

(AP) — Cornelia Huetter and Federica Brignone tied for first place in a World Cup super-G on Sunday, in the final race before the Beijing Olympics.

Brignone looked certain to secure a third super-G win of the season after a dominant performance from start to finish on the Kandahar course but the Italian was in for an anxious wait as Huetter — who had been 0.18 seconds slower at the second checkpoint — made up time in the second half of the course.

Brignone could only smile and shake her head in disbelief — and maybe some relief — as Huetter crossed the line in exactly the same time of 1:18.19.

"When I crossed the line I realised it was a good run, then I was a bit scared with Huetter but it's nice to be on the top of the podium together. I'm really happy for her too," Brignone said. It was a 19th World Cup win for Brignone but only a third for Huetter, whose last victory was a downhill in Lake Louise, Canada, in December 2017.

"Yeah it's really nice. It was a bit weird to cross the finish line and I saw the green light and I saw 0.00," Huetter said.

"I was really happy to share it with Fede, her skiing was really good and it's nice to share it with her and I'm super happy for the day." Huetter's Austrian teammate, Tamara Tippler was third fastest, 0.82 behind the duo.

With the start of the Winter Olympics looming, several top contenders skipped the races in Garmisch, including overall rivals Mikaela Shiffrin and Petra Vlhova, and world super-G champion Lara Gut-Behrami. Sofia Goggia, who won two super-G races this season, was injured during a World Cup super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo last week. The Italian has started physical rehab with the aim of returning in time for the Olympic downhill on Feb. 15, but will likely miss the giant slalom on Feb. 7 and the super-G on Feb. 11.



From left, ex aequo winners Italy's Federica Brignone and Austria's Cornelia Huetter celebrate after an alpine ski, women's World Cup Super G race in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Pier Marco Tacca)

That makes her teammate Brignone one of the favor-

ites for gold in what will likely be her last shot at Olym-

pic glory. Brignone won bronze in the giant slalom

four years ago.

"I would like to take this confidence with me to there. I hope to find the same feeling with the skis, with everything," the 31-year-old Brignone said.

"And try just to enjoy, enjoy the moment. I think it's going to be my last Olympics Games and I will try to give my everything to my nation and for myself and for everyone who works with me."

Out of the top 10 skiers in the overall standings, only Brignone, Corinne Suter and Elena Curtoni raced. With the win, Brignone extended her lead at the top of the super-G standings, which Italy dominates. Brignone has a 103-point lead over Curtoni and is 145 ahead of Goggia. □

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EAGLE BEACH — Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort between its captivating swimming pool and the amazing world-famous Eagle Beach Aruba, you will find 'Water's Edge Restaurant; a cozy, relaxing & inspiring Aruban restaurant. Serving the most mouthwatering dishes of all over the world to please all your taste buds with its popular and demanding international selection.

If you're looking for a phenomenal dinner experience that has all the ingredients for a wonderful gastronomic night, then you should book at least one night of your stay at Water's Edge Restaurant. Designed to pamper all your senses and cover all of your needs with an amazing staff to attend to your every wish, whether in the fine dining room or under a palapa with your toes in the sand.

Gastronomic journey

Kick start the night with a great, refreshing and most delicious cocktail mixed with concoctions before the grand tour of an extraordinary culinary experience. Start your journey with an exquisite appetizer such as the daily fresh made Water's Edge ceviche or maybe a world known jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by the Chef's special of seafood



such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, coconut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans.



Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

Creating memories

Planning a birthday or anniversary dinner? Water's Edges Restaurants gives you the perfect gift. Here, you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment:

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. On Monday & Saturday, Angela Flores, will delight you with her violin. Tuesday, Jean Paul, Saxophonist, will get you moving.

On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

Whether it's for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular sunset views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website www.watersedge-aruba.com

